

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /069 W
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R 150505Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9489

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1016

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR NZ SN

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND TROOPS IN SINGAPORE

REF WELLINGTON 0918

1. ALTHOUGH SINGAPORE PM LEE KUAN YEW'S RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRY APRIL 7 INDICATED HE SAW NO PARTICULAR REASON FOR GNZ TROOPS TO REMAIN IN SINGAPORE (REFTEL), MFA ASIAN DIVISION HEAD BRIAN LYNCH INFORMED EMBOFF LEE ADOPTED DIFFERENT STANCE IN MEETINGS WITH GNZ CABINET AND PM ROWLING. LYNCH SUGGESTED THAT LEE'S RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRY WAS MEANT TO CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT PRESENCE OF GNZ FORCES IN SINGAPORE WAS NOT A ONE-WAY STREET. LEE IS AWARE THAT WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS TO SINGAPORE, GNZ WOULD HAVE VERY DIFFICULT TIME RECRUITING PERSONNEL.

2. EQUALLY, TOURS OF DUTY IN SINGAPORE ARE MAJOR FACTOR
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IN GNZ MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM. AS SORT OF QUID PRO QUO
LEE SUGGESTED THAT SINGAPOREAN TROOPS MIGHT BENEFIT FROM

TRAINING IN NEW ZEALAND. LEE BROACHED THE TOPIC DURING TALKS WITH PM ROWLING AND SAID HE HAD IN MIND A TWO-THREE MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM FOR A BATTALION SIZE CONTINGENT.

3. ACCORDING TO LYNCH, GNZ FAVORS IDEA OF TRAINING PROGRAM AND SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED WHEN MINISTER DEFENSE FRASER VISITS SINGAPORE LATER THIS MONTH. PHASING DOWN OF GNZ FORCES IN SINGAPORE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED WITH LIKELHIHOOD THAT THIS WILL BEGIN IN ABOUT A YEEAR'S TIME. SUBJECT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL ATTENTION AS SINGAPORE IS, IN FACT, THE MAJOR RECRUITING INDUCEMENT IN NEW ZEALAND'S VOLUNTEER ARMY. "BRINGING THE BOYS HOME" IS ALSO COMPLICATED BY PROBLEM OF ABSORBING ENTIRE BATTALION PLUS DEPENDENTS WHICH WOULD STRAIN HOUSING, EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL FACILITIES. KILLGORE

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